

REMARKS

Dealing with preliminary matters first, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority and receipt of the priority document.

The Examiner has indicated that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the application was placed in the file, but not considered until clearer copies of the two Italian references are received. Applicant is in the process of obtaining clearer copies of the two cited references and will file them in the near future.

Applicant submits herewith an Information Disclosure Statement disclosing U.S. Patent No. 6,805,885, corresponding to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/802,932, disclosed on page 5 of the specification.

The Examiner has objected to the specification for not containing the proper headings. The specification has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1-3, 9 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koster, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,732) in view of Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 4,808,419). Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicated that claims 4-8 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2-4; cancelled claims 2-4 and 15; amended claims 5-14 and added new claims 16-18. Claims 16-18 respectively correspond to claims 1+5, 1+6, and 1+8. Thus, the independent claims contain the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brian W. Hannon/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Brian W. Hannon
Registration No. 32,778

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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